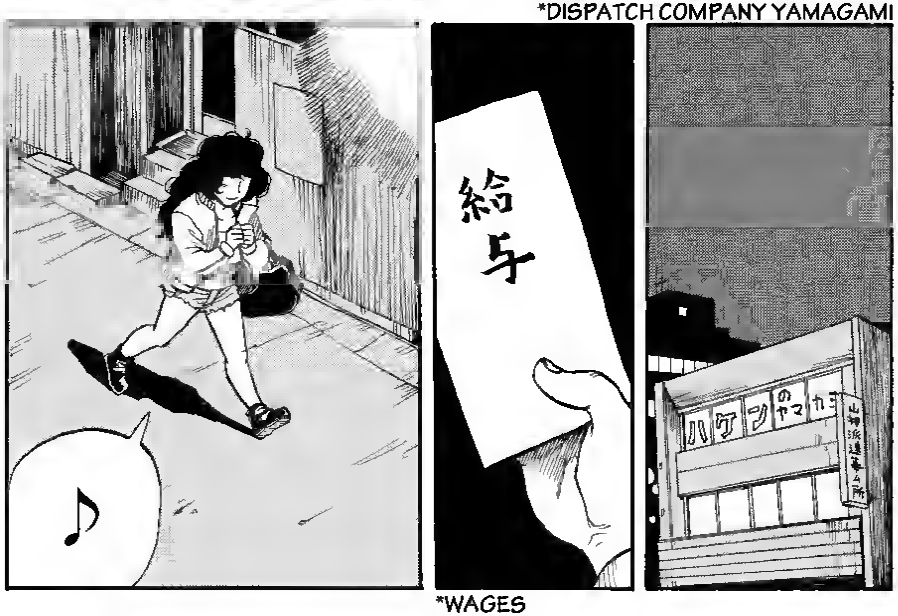
STARLIGHT WOMAN

CHAPTER 02: ANTENNA

RIE KANOU

LUMINE
PLEASE TAKE ONE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I WANNA DIE.
I GOTTA GET HOME.
GAB
DAMN IT, GET A HOTEL ROOM!
GAB
IS THAT SHOP CLOSED TODAY?
PLEASE TAKE ONE!
GAB
GAB
TOO DAMNED CROWDED HERE...
CHATTER
CHATTER
AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

*DISPATCH COMPANY YAMAGAMI



*WAGES

*ONE WAY ONLY/ BICYCLES EXEMPTED
自転車を除く
一方通行
コットン
KA-TUNK
ガタン
KA-TUNK
KA-TUNK
タトトン
KA-TUNK
タトトン

!
FWIFF
...
SHOOF

....!
ズドン
THUD
HEY, YOU!
YOU'VE BEEN TAILING ME FROM THE STATION SINCE! ARE YOU SOME STALKER?!
TWIST
WAIT A MINUTE!
ARE YOU AFTER MY PAY-CHECK? WELL?!
WAGES
SPIT IT OUT, YOU BASTARD!
I WON'T GIVE YOU ONE CENT...

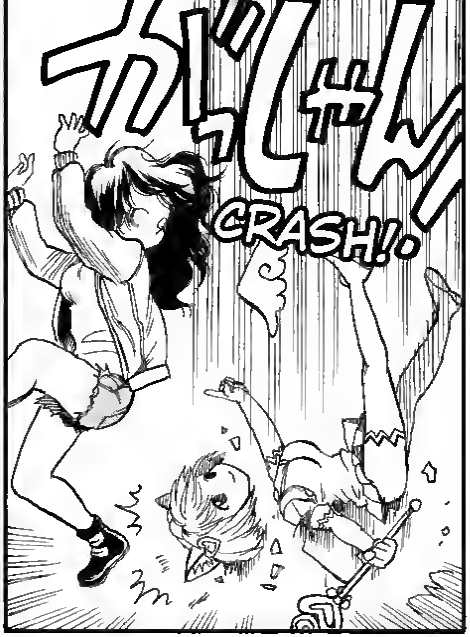
NOW I GET IT...
YOU, TOO, EH?
WHY ARE YOU COL-LAPSING...
STAGGER
WAIT A SEC...
. ALL OF A SUDDEN?
!
COLLAPSE
?!
HUH?
HUH?

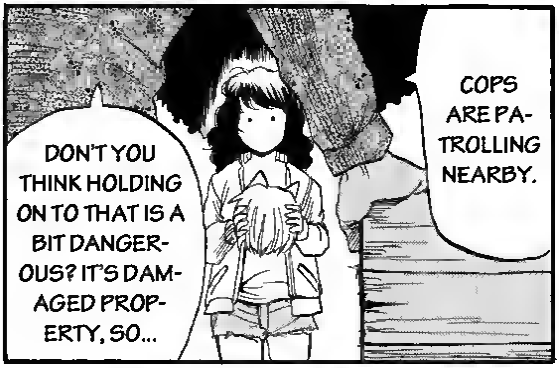
YOU'RE...?!
WHERE AM I?

...
THE PARK. CAN'T YOU TELL?
YOU SUDDENLY COLLAPSED, SO I CARRIED YOU HERE.
WHOA.
DID I REALLY SLEEP FOR TWO HOURS?
HMM...
MAN, WAS I ASLEEP.
STRETCH
LIFT
FLINCH
CRACK
BED-HEAD
YOU ACTUALLY WAITED FOR ME TO WAKE UP.
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE VERY KIND.

THAT MARK ON YOUR CHEST...
WHY IS IT THE SAME AS MINE?
AS FOR WAITING FOR YOU... THAT WAS TO ASK YOU WHY YOU WERE TAILING ME.
STOP PLAYING DUMB WITH ME.
BECAUSE OF THE HUSBAND'S OTAKU HOBBIES... WHOA, WIFEY JUST OH, CRAP THAT WAS HUBBY'S FAVORITE
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MM? THE APARTMENT COMPLEX NEXT TO US— A YOUNG COUPLE'S FIGHTING IN THEIR UNIT, JUST OVERHEAD.
HMM...
SLIDE
OH. YOU MAY WANNA STEP ASIDE.
HUH?
HUH?

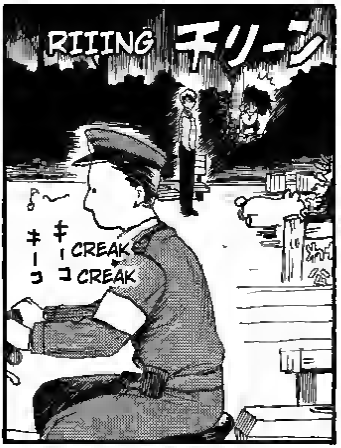
ARGH
キーッ
.....


ガシャーン
CRASH!!

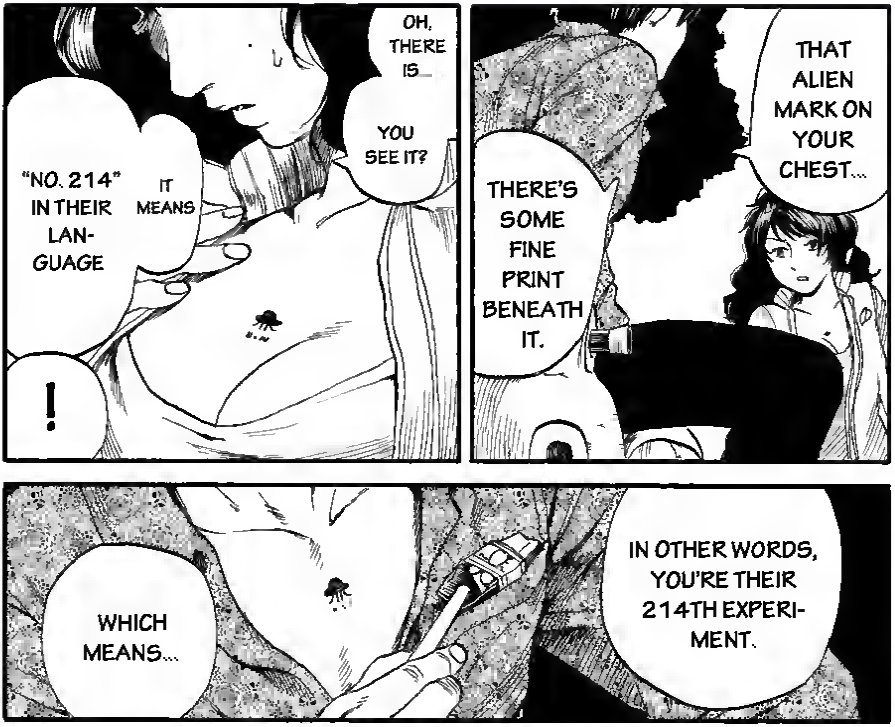

COPS ARE PATROLLING NEARBY.
DON'T YOU THINK HOLDING ON TO THAT IS A BIT DANGEROUS? IT'S DAMAGED PROPERTY, SO...

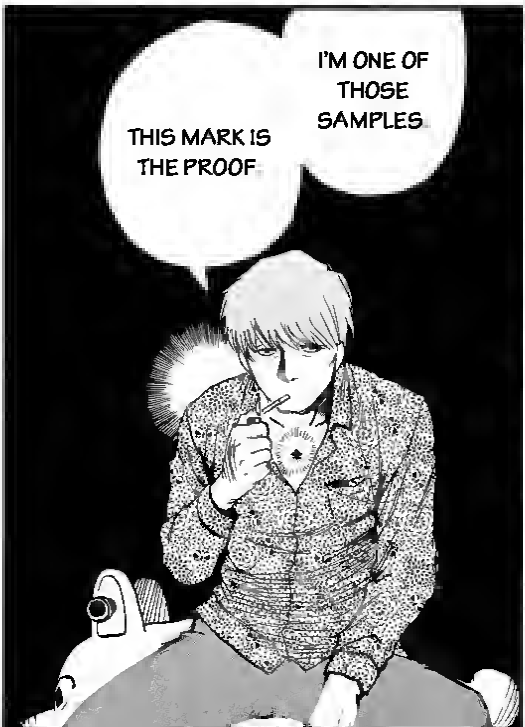
OH.
IT ISN'T OVER YET.

DON'T WORRY, THEY DIDN'T NOTICE A THING
HEH HEH YOU WERE REALLY SCARED
UP, WE GO
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?


RIING チリーン
キーコ
キーコ CREAK
CREAK

DASH!!
...!!


OH, THERE IS...
YOU SEE IT?
"NO. 214" IN THEIR LAN-GUAGE
IT MEANS
!
THAT ALIEN MARK ON YOUR CHEST...
THERE'S SOME FINE PRINT BENEATH IT.
WHICH MEANS...
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE THEIR 214TH EXPERI-MENT.

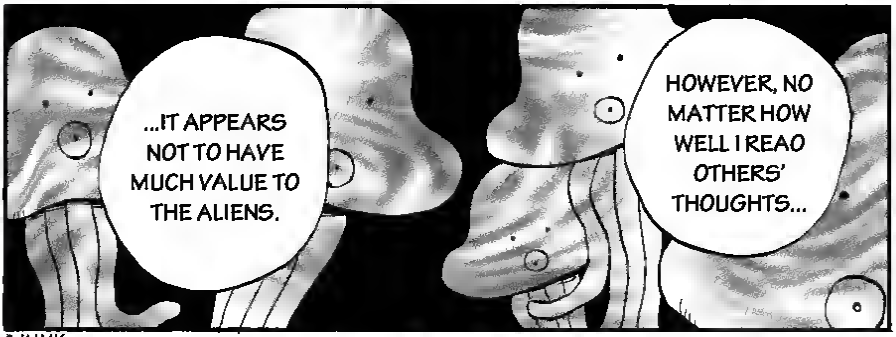

I'M ONE OF THOSE SAMPLES.
THIS MARK IS THE PROOF.

YEP.
NATURALLY, THERE WERE HUMANS BEFORE YOU THAT WERE USED IN EXPERI-MENTS TO DRAW OUT LATENT ABILITIES...
AND THE ALIENS LEFT MARKS ON THOSE SAMPLES' CHESTS.

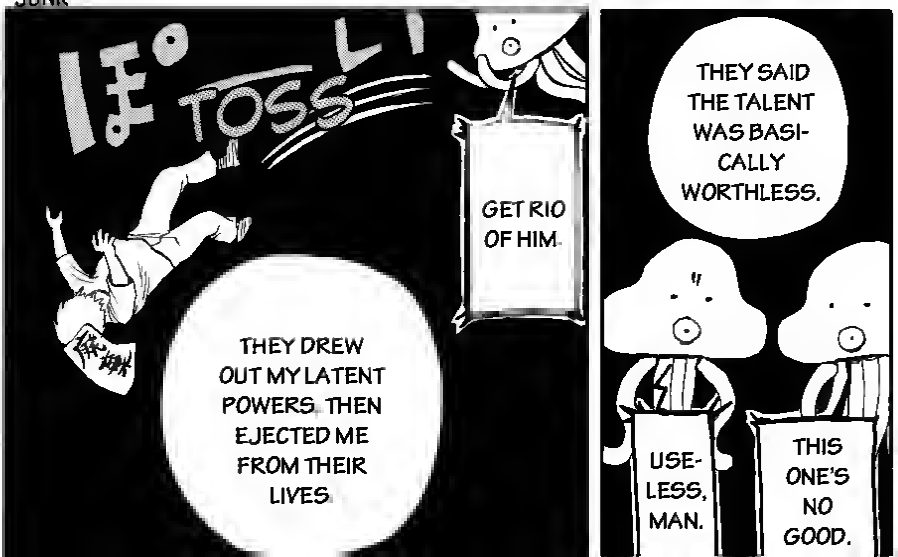
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?
ARE YOU...

WE'VE ABDUCTED NUMEROUS TEST SUBJECTS.
AND WE DUBBED THIS PROJECT "THE UMA PLAN".
OH...
NO KIDDIN'.
NO WAY
WOBBLE
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD FROM THOSE ALIEN SCUM?
WHOOOO
THEN...
DID THE ALIENS TELL YOU TO HELP THEM, ALSO?
WHAT'S YOUR POWER?
YOU MUST BE THE ONE BEHIND ALL THOSE DESTROYED BUILDINGS EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT
ERK
I SAW SOME STUFF LIKE THIS ON THE NEWS.
...
FROM THE LOOK OF IT, YOU HAVE SOME PRETTY POWERFUL ABILITIES.
I BET THOSE ALIENS WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THAT POWER.
BUT I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU.

YOU MEAN, YOU CAN READ OTHER PEOPLE'S MINDS?
WHETHER OR NOT I WANT TO, I HEAR THE THOUGHTS OF OTHERS.
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I HAVE A FORM OF TELEPATHY.
IT SEEMS EVERY HUMAN HAS A DIFFERENT LATENT ABILITY.
SURE, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. RIGHT NOW, I CAN PICK UP WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING FAR AWAY.


...IT APPEARS NOT TO HAVE MUCH VALUE TO THE ALIENS.
HOWEVER, NO MATTER HOW WELL I READ OTHERS' THOUGHTS...

*JUNK


TOSS!
GET RID OF HIM.
THEY DREW OUT MY LATENT POWERS, THEN EJECTED ME FROM THEIR LIVES.
THEY SAID THE TALENT WAS BASICALLY WORTHLESS.
USELESS, MAN.
THIS ONE'S NO GOOD.

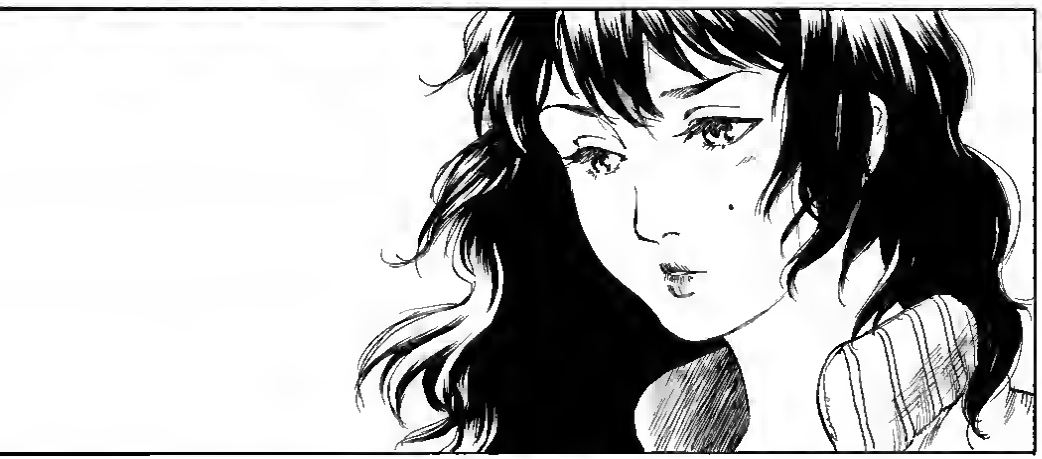
BASI-
CALLY...
I WAS JUST A FAILED EX-PERIMENT TO THEM.
WE'VE ABDUCTED NU-MEROUS TEST SUBJECTS...
AND AWAKENED THE ABILITIES DORMANT IN EACH OF THEM, BUT NONE WERE USEFUL... HOWEVER!
YOU ALONE PROVED TO BE THE EXCEP-TION!
...
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEM CHASING YOU
GUESS NOT.
BUT EVEN STILL, STUFF STOPPED BEING TOO PEACHY FOR ME.
EVER SINCE I GOT THIS POWER...
THOUSANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE'S UN-WANTED THOUGHTS FLOOD INTO MY HEAD, EVERY SINGLE DAY.
DIE, YOU PIECE OF CRAP.

HEY, I DON'T KNOW JACK
--CALL IT OFF
I DON'T
SHUT UP, YOU JERK.
SHOVE OFF!
THANKS TO THAT, I HAD TO QUIT MY JOB, AND I EVEN BECAME AN INSOMNIAC.
KEEP IT DOWN UP THERE!
DUMB-ASS!
STOMP
STOMP
GO TO SLEEP,
YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE I'VE EVER MET...
YEAH? GOOD FOR YOU.
TEARS
I... I TOTALLY UNDER-STAND!
...!
NOTHING GOOD CAME OUT OF GETTING THIS POWER. IT'S JUST MADE LIFE HARDER FOR ME TO DEAL WITH.
MAYBE YOU GIVE OFF DIFFERENT VIBES THAN OTHER PEOPLE.
?
YOU'RE THE FIRST HUMAN I'VE MET WHO'S RUN THIS GAUNTLET, AS WELL.

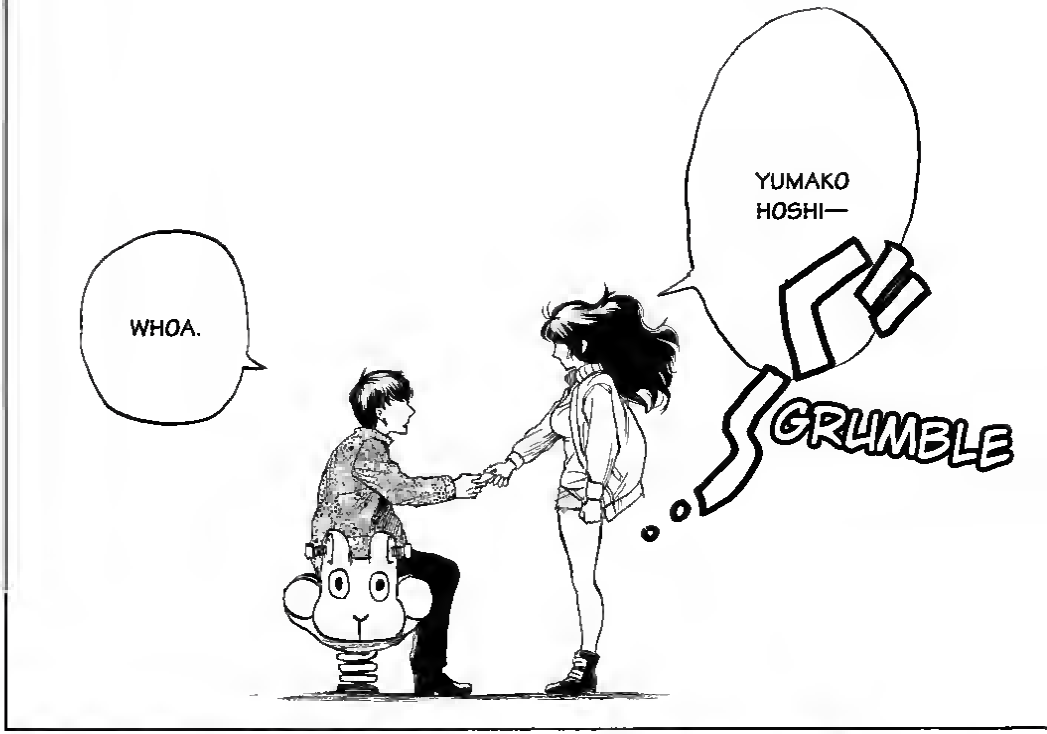
TODAY...
WHEN I SAW YOU IN FRONT OF THE STATION,
LUMINE
SOME-THING STRANGE HAP-PENED.
NORMALLY, I CAN'T STAND BEING IN CROWDS, BUT THIS TIME...
GRR...
HA! HA! HA!
FWISSSH!

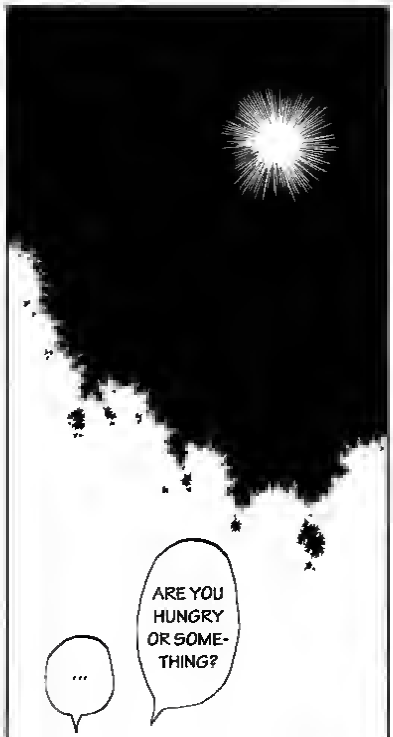
AROUND YOU...
...THE CROWD NOISES QUIETED.
IT WAS VERY, VERY SERENE.
...
I GOT CURIOUS, SO I FOLLOWED YOU.
THE MOMENT I STOOD NEXT TO YOU, THE NOISE STOPPED ENTIRELY.
SNORE
I HAVEN'T EXPERIENCED QUIET FOR SO LONG, I SLEPT REALLY HARD.
BUT... WHY JUST AROUND ME?
SEEMS LIKE IT'S ONLY YOU. I HAD TO CONCENTRATE, BUT I WAS ABLE TO HEAR SOMEONE ELSE'S THOUGHTS A BIT EARLIER.
SO DON'T WORRY. I CAN'T HEAR ANY OF YOURS.

I HAVEN'T HAD SUCH A PLEASANT CONVERSATION WITH ANYONE FOR A WHILE.
I'M VERY GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU.
AS A FELLOW SUPERHUMAN, I HOPE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BETTER.



HO...
HOSHI.
AND YOUR NAME?
OH, YEAH. I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF YET.
I'VE BECOME A KINDA PRIVATE EYE NOW, THANKS TO MY POWER.
THE NAME'S KOUSUKE SAKURAI.


YUMAKO HOSHI—
GRUMBLE
WHOA.


ARE YOU HUNGRY OR SOMETHING?
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